

Following Mr Byron Dixon's retirement at the end of 2015 students have met and look forward to working with Miss Kiri Brunton.

### Golden Time

Golden Time will begin next Friday with a round of activities over three weeks. Golden Time is a time to reflect on our week and be rewarded for the hard work we have done. We are looking for adult helpers to supervise a group of children in activities they choose themselves. Please let Mrs Dimond know if you can oversee the waterslide or other activities.

### Stationery

School makes available all the children's stationery requirements for the year, which are provided cheaply and for your convenience. Currently children have temporary pages to work with until stationery invoices are paid. Invoices have already been distributed this week.

### Playground / School Grounds



The wild area has proven to be a popular place with the addition of a new challenge. Thank you to Batch and Craig for setting up the slide through the wild area over the holidays. Also to Alannah & Batch, your time in supervising grounds maintenance with Community Service Workers over the summer is much appreciated.



New School Hats

### What's Coming Up At Waitomo Caves School

- |                       |                                           |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| 8 February            | Waitangi Day holiday                      |
| 9 February            | Parent Meeting & BBQ, 3.00pm start        |
| 14 February           | Weetbix Tryathlon, Hamilton               |
| 15 February           | Kick Start classes begin                  |
| 15 & 22 (29) February | Otorohanga Pool session, Year 4-8 (COP's) |

Nga mihi, Mrs Tamae Dimond, Tumuaki ☺



# Newsletter

Waitomo Caves  
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Whaia te ara totika – Make the Right Choice

Term One 2016

Week One – 5 February

Dear Parents, Caregiver, Whanau and Friends of the School

Tena Koutou Katoa

Nau mai hoki ki te kura. Welcome to Term 1, 2016. With a wonderful summer holiday break behind us we begin the new school year with 63 students and the presence of several new children and families.

We welcome the Jensen whanau, Haupokia, Aria & Tiana along with parents Wayne & Pomare Jensen. Welcome Conner Thorburn and parents Laurence and Joanne Thorburn. Welcome to the Te Ruki-Haupokia whanau, Kareina & Kahu and parents Orewa & Beau. Welcome Donelle Houghton and family Melissa & David.

We welcome the junior class teacher Miss Rachal Stewart who has accepted a fixed term contract for this term. A permanent appointment will be made following interviews in Term 1.

This year we have taken a more collaborative approach to teaching and learning with the placement of students according to their needs. During the morning sessions of literacy and numeracy Miss Stewart is teaching Year 1 to 3 students while Mr Dimond, Mrs Verry and Mrs Watts teach Years 3 to 8. Mr Dimond and Mrs Verry have home rooms (Totara & Kauri) while Mrs Watts is based in the Totara room working with a variety of groups within the two home rooms.



**WAITOMO  
GLOW WORM  
CAVES**  
NEW ZEALAND



• Private Bag 501, Otorohanga.

• Telephone (07) 878-8227 • Facsimile (07) 878 8858

Proudly Supporting Waitomo Caves School

During the afternoon sessions of topic work studies such as health & PE, science, social studies, technology and arts, Miss Stewart will work with Kowhai class and Mr & Mrs Dimond will be working with Totara and Kauri children. Mrs Stubbs will withdraw swimming groups for swimming tuition.

Mrs Ieva Walters will be supporting students learning in numeracy and literacy throughout the whole school in the mornings while Mrs Manning's teacher aide hours are being used to support juniors.

Kick-Start to School Classes resume on Monday 15 February.

### **Swimming**

With the swimming season underway all students will have daily swimming lessons in our school pool Mon-Thurs with Mrs Rachel Stubbs (and Friday's if elected for Golden Time). All pupils are expected to participate and parents are asked to send along a note to the teacher if they wish to have their child excused from swimming for health reasons. Swimming attire is very important. Senior girls should wear a one piece suit and boys are required to wear speedos or swim shorts that are well above the knee. Children will find they are able to swim far better without t-shirts or cumbersome baggy shorts and their techniques, buoyancy, strokes and streamlined ability will improve. We also recommend students wear swimming caps to prevent long hair obstructing vision while in the water and goggles are desirable.

Thank you to Batch for his support during a transition stage of pool minding. It is much appreciated that he got the pool up and running ready for Term 1.

### **Otorohanga Pool Sessions**

Confident swimmers in Year's 4 to 8 will be involved in additional swimming sessions at the Otorohanga Pool on the following Monday afternoons – 15, 22 February and Monday 29 February for COP's participants. These sessions provide support with training in distance and depth. Pink transport notices accompany this newsletter asking parents and caregivers to help get us there and back. Please check diaries to see if you are available.

### **Pool Keys**

School families are welcome to purchase pool keys for \$30 while the pool is operational during Term 1. Keys can be obtained from the office with pool details and hours. It is most important the key holder is present at all times during the use of the pool and the gate must be kept closed at all times and locked on departure.

### **Parent Meeting**

The first parent meeting for the year is scheduled for Tuesday 9 February starting at 3.00pm. Please attend as the schools yearly plan will be available and important class routines and explanations will be shared. This is also an opportunity to gather socially and meet new community members therefore we ask everyone to bring a plate of finger food along and the school will sizzle some sausages for a shared dinner.

### **Mobile Dental Team**

You have received an appointment via school for your child/ren to attend their annual dental appointment. If you have a preschool child please feel free to bring them with you. Your school has a list of the original appointments, but if you cancel or reschedule please could you inform school as well as the Mobile Dental Team. The clinic is based at Otorohanga South School at present which is where all appointments have been made. We will be going to Te Kuiti Primary School before the end of Term 1 so if it is more convenient for you to attend an appointment at Te Kuiti please advise us and we will reschedule. Direct: Phone or text 021487914, 0800 TALK TEETH (0800 825 583) or 07 8599160. Regards Team at Dental Unit 10.

### **After School Programme**

Thank you for completing the After School Programme enrolments. This will begin next week on a trial basis for Term 1.



### **Weetbix Tryathlon**

Children are excited to be entering as a school team in the Hamilton Weetbix Tryathlon on Sunday 14 February. The team consists of 15 students aged 7 to 14. Have fun and good luck Kate, Henry M, Elijah, Zarah, Keira, Hazel, Sage, Seth M, Siân, Reuben, Rachael, Heidi, Maddison, Seth G and Blaze Cameron.

### **Technology 2016**

Year 7 & 8 students have begun manual training on Tuesday's. Children are required to have suitable covered footwear for safety reasons. These students will be involved in curriculum specialist subjects at Otorohanga South Technology Centre which will be every Tuesday afternoon. Seniors will be transported by bus leaving school at 12.35pm and returning at 2.50pm. There is a cost involved in Technology for materials and invoices will be sent home following confirmation of expenses.